[English]

Safeguarding Interest of Onions Growers

683. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of tons of onions is being allowed to rot in various States due to lack of buyers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether farmers who made huge investments in cultivating onions are not receiving adequate returns; and

(d) if so, the steps being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). The returns to onion growers are governed by market forces. Whenever the prices fall in the market, the Government of India implement Market Intervention Scheme to protect the interest of farmers under which Government procures the commodity to a specified quantity at a pre-dertermined price on the request of the State Governments. The procurements are made till the market prices are improved. This has been done recently in cae of onion growers in Karnataka.

[Translation]

Forestry Project in Madhya Pradesh

684. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether social forestry project is being run in Madhya Pradesh and other States with the help of World Bank; and

(b) if so, the extent and nature of cooperation from villages sought in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAYAN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) World Bank has provided financial assistance for implementation of forestry projects in West Bengal, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

(b) People's participation in various activities in the major thrust for implementation of these projects. Village forest committees have been constituted for participation in planning, implementation, protection and benefit sharing process.

[English]

Foodgrains Production

685. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have prepared an Action Plan to achieve the target of 400 million tonnes of foodgrains production by the end of the Century; and

(b) if so, the cost and other details of the action Plan?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Urea and DAP

686. SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantity of Urea and DAP imported during the current year till October, 1996; and

(b) the amount paid per tonne for handling of imported urea and DAP to the contractors from different ports to the destinations during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) A quantity of 13.57 lakh tonnes of urea and 3.97 lakh tonnes of DAP has been imported during the current year upto October 1996.

(b) The weighted average amount paid per tonne to contractors for handling of imported urea from different ports to destinations during the last three years is given below :

Year	Amount (Rs/tonne)
1993-94	910
1994-95	1081
1995-96	1090

The handling charges paid for imported DAP during these years are not available as imports of DAP have been decanalised w.e.f. 17.9.1992.

Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958

687. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commission has started a detailed examination of the controversial Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958;

(b) if so, whether the Commission has received several complaints against certain provisions of this Act; and

(c) if so, the time by which the Commission is likely to give its report containing the recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The National Human Rights Commission decided to undertake a detailed examination of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 on the basis of a petition received expressly on the matter. The Commission has called for the comments from the concerned Ministries for detailed examination/recommendations.

(b) The Commission has received a few complaints regarding Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958.

(c) The Commission has undertaken detailed examination of the Act and only after the examination is over, report/recommendation can be given.

Illegal Activities on Border

688. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons arrested on the Indo-Pak border in Gujarat and Rajasthan for illegal activities during the last two years;

(b) whether the Government are aware of increasing activities of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) in these areas recently;

(c) if so, any assessment has been made in this regard; and

(d) the details of additional companies of para-military forces provided by the Union Government to these States to effectively tackle the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) Number of Persons arrested on Indo-Pak Border in Gujarat and Rajasthan for illegal activities are as under :

	1995	1996 (upto 18th November, '96)
Rajasthan	1662	903
Gujarat	72	226

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Assessment is being made from timt to time and necessary remedial measures are being taken.

(d) In order to tackle the situation effectively Five additional battalions of BSF were raise during 1994-95 and deployed on the Rajasthan and Gujarat border.

Support Prices of Agricultural Products

689. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the rate of increase in the support prices of various agricultural products for the period from 1992-96, crop-wise;

(b) the rate of increase in the support price of copra for the said period;

(c) whether the support price of copra had not been revised corresponding to the increase in the support price of other agricultural products, and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) A statement showing the Minimum Support Prices alongwith increase effected, crop-wise, of various agricultural commodities including copra for the period from 1992-93 to 1996-97 is enclosed.

(c) and (d) The CACP in its report of Price Policy for Copra for 1996 season recommended that the Minimum Support Price for both milling copra and ball copra be not announced and requisite price support to the growers be provided through market intervention/ open market purchases of copra by the designated Central and State agencies during the peak marketing period of the 1996 season. However, keeping in view the interest of copra growers, the Government decided to continue procurement of copra at the MSP announced for 1995, i.e. for ball copra of fair average quality (FAQ) at Rs. 2725 per quintal and for milling copra of fair average quality (FAQ) at Rs. 2500 per quintal.

STATEMENT

Minimum Support Prices

(Rs. per quintal)

Crop	Variety	Quality	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Paddy	Common	FAQ	270 (17.4)	310 (14.8)	340 (9.7)	360 (5.9)	380 (5.6)
Price Differential	Fine & S.F.		10.00	20.00	20.00	15.00	15.00-20.00
Jowar			240 (17.1)	260 (8.3)	280 (7.7)	300 (7.1)	310 (3.3)
Bajra			240 (17.1)	260 (8.3)	280 (7.7)	300 (7.1)	310 (3.3)